

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining a recombinant plant of the *Cichorium* type, having tuberous roots, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

a) performing a cross-breeding between a batch of female plants of a variety of the *Cichorium intybus* L species having tuberous roots and a batch of male plants of a variety of the *Cichorium endivia* L species and obtaining a F1 generation hybrid plant population resulting from said cross-breeding;

b) performing a self-fertilization of F1 generation hybrid plants resulting from step a) and obtaining F2 generation recombinant plants derived from said cross-breeding;

c) selecting F2 generation recombinant plants, wherein the buds or the roots thereof do not have any visible alterations caused by a viral, bacterial or fungal infection, ~~particularly by *Erwinia carotovora*, by *Sclerotinia Sclerotiorum*, or even by *Phytophthora cryptogea*;~~

d) forcing F2 generation recombinant plants selected in step c) for 10 to 18 days under the following forcing conditions:

- nutriment solution temperature: 15°C to 17°C;
- room temperature: 15 to 17°C;

e) cloning F2 plants obtained at the end of step d) and obtaining regenerated buds;

f) ~~pricking out~~ transplanting regenerated buds on an appropriate culture medium until recombinant ~~young~~ plants are obtained.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the forcing step d) is followed by a step d1) and wherein the resulting ~~young chicories~~ F2 plants are selected, before the cloning step e), according to the three following phenotype classes:

(i) PPI: very numerous narrow leaves on a plate-shaped root neck;

(ii) GPI: typology similar to the endive, but with a narrow and indented leaf, and

(iii) TFR and SCA: very dentate branched leaves.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises the following additional~~ further comprising the steps of:

g) cultivating in the ground small recombinant plants obtained at the end of step f);

h) self-fertilizing F2 ~~recombining~~ recombinant plants as obtained in step g) and obtaining F3 generation ~~recombining~~ recombinant plants through cultivating in the ground.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the F3 generation recombinant plants obtained in step h) are subjected to a forcing step i) for a period of 10 to 18 days, under the following forcing conditions:

- nutriment solution temperature: 15°C to 17°C;
- room temperature: 15 to 17°C;

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that it further comprises~~ further comprising a cloning step j) of the ~~young recombinant chicories~~ F3 plants obtained at the end of the forcing step i).

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cloning step j) comprises cloning the fragments of leaf nervure of ~~young plants~~ the F3 plants obtained at the end of the forcing step i) and regenerating [[the]] F4 generation recombinant young plants.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cloning step j) comprises cloning the end buds of ~~young plants~~ the F3 plants obtained at the end of the forcing step i) and regenerating [[the]] F4 generation recombinant young plants.

8. (currently amended) ~~Recombinant plants~~ A recombinant plant obtained by the method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that they have~~ comprising: (i) tuberous roots and (ii) indented leaves.

9. (currently amended) ~~Recombinant plants~~ The recombinant plant according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that they belong~~ wherein said plant belongs to class PPI and ~~have~~ has the following common phenotype characteristics:

- more than 100 leaves per root at the completion of the forcing;

- no secondary axis;

- very narrow basis of each leaf:

ratio width of the leaf basis/height of the leaf ranging from 0.06 to 0.10;

- deep indentations of the limb:

ratio depth of the indentation/length of the indentation tip to the leaf axis ranging from 0.60 to 0.85;

- The edge of the indentations comprises or not secondary serrations;

- The colour of the nervures is white or red;

- The colour of the limb is yellow or red;

10. (currently amended) ~~Recombinant plants~~ The recombinant plant according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~

~~they belong~~ wherein said plant belongs to class GPI and ~~have~~ has the following common phenotype characteristics:

- from 20 to 35 leaves obtained per root at the completion of the forcing;
- no secondary axis;
- deep indentations of the limb up to the leaf basis:  
ratio depth of the indentation/length of the indentation tip to the leaf axis ranging from 0.60 to 0.85;
- The edge of the indentations comprises or not secondary serrations;
- The colour of the nervures is white or red;
- The colour of the limb is yellow or red;

11. (currently amended) ~~Recombinant—plants~~ The recombinant plant according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~they belong~~ wherein said plant belongs to class TFR or SCA and ~~have~~ has the following common phenotype characteristics:

- from 20 to 35 leaves obtained per root at the completion of the forcing;
- 2 to 5 axes secondary to the main axis occurring in the basal half of the leaf;
- deep indentations of the limb:  
ratio depth of the indentation/length of the indentation tip to the leaf axis ranging from 0.60 to 0.85;

- The edge of the indentations comprises or not secondary serrations;
- The colour of the nervures is white or red;
- The colour of the limb is yellow or red;

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that it comprises the following additional~~  
further comprising the steps of:

g) cultivating in the ground small recombinant plants obtained at the end of step f);

h) self-fertilizing F2 ~~recombining~~ recombinant plants as obtained in step g) and obtaining F3 generation ~~recombining~~ recombinant plants through cultivating in the ground.